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Staff Responses to Questions E-Mailed to the July 6, 2011 Workshop on the Californ Energy Future (dated: July 19, 2011)

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1. Question on the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Forecast metric:
What do the three options result from? The question is from Jim Stewart. [jim@earthdayla.org]

Staff Response: The three options each show the same data but differ in the scale on the Y axis. The first option shows MMTCO2E on a scale of 0 to 140, the second option has a scale of 80 to 125, and the third option is a scale of 0 to 125 with a break showing that chart is not to scale. Staff is seeking comment on the preferred approach for graph.

2. Andy: Please expand on the comment on "environmentally benign" statement. I live in the Tehachapi Pass and nothing happening here is benign by any standard. The question is from Penny Ximatek. [pmelko@ximatek.com]

Staff Response: Staff's use of the phrase "environmentally benign" was in reference to energy efficiency. The question appears to suggest that the phrase was used in reference to renewables and/or transmission. Relative to supply side resources, energy efficiency has fewer environmental impacts as it avoids the need to deploy large scale infrastructure, including transmission and generating facilities, as well as avoids the need for fuel inputs, like gas, coal, etc, that would otherwise be required to provide additional energy services.

3. The plan suggests storage at 1 GW of pumped hydro. What analysis of this option is provided? The question is from Edward Cazalet. [ed@MegaWattSF.com]

Staff Response: The California Clean Energy Future currently states that the "agencies are targeting 1,000 megawatts of additional storage capacity to be brought onto the system by 2020." This was a visionary goal. It is technology neutral and the document suggests it could be met through various technologies such as batteries, flywheels, compressed air energy storage, pumped hydro electric energy storage and capacitors.

4. Under the Governor's Plans with a significant increase in distributed renewables, the need would seem to be more for distributed storage and in amounts much larger than 1 GW? Was this option explicitly analyzed? The question is from Edward Cazalet. [ed@MegaWattSF.com]

Staff Response: The California Clean Energy Future needs to be updated to reflect the goals and policy leadership of Governor Brown. The Overview does not yet incorporate the Governor's 12,000 MW goal for distributed generation. We do not yet know how additional amounts of DG will impact the need for distributed versus large scale storage, or on the amount of storage needed.

5. With smart meters, automation and the planned transition to dynamic pricing, the metrics for dynamic pricing metrics should be given more prominence over metrics for demand response. Dynamic pricing and automation are much more effective in integrating variable renewables. This comment is from Edward Cazalet. [ed@MegaWattSF.com]